



GLSML AGM: Proposed Amendments to Standing Orders & Regulations

This document gives a summary of substantive changes the committee proposes to make for 2020. Note that while the Constitution can only be amended at a General Meeting; the Standing Orders and Regulations can be amended by the committee decision.

We will hold a short discussion at the AGM about the ‘in principle’ changes to gauge members views. The committee will then establish a Rules Working Group to work through the specific changes and update the Standing Orders & Regulations for formal committee approval before the 2020 season starts.

A. Standing Orders

No changes proposed.

B. Regulations Governing Play

Section 4.f: Early and late season shortened games

Proposed Change	Add additional wording to specify what the early/late season shortened game rules are. This would confirm the rules that have been communicated to captains at the start of the last few seasons – allowing 1 hour games to be considered valid even if 5 innings are not completed.
Rationale	The same rules have been used for a couple of seasons now so should be embedded within the regulations
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do members agree with the proposed change?

Section 5: Team forfeits

Proposed Change	Additional requirement: If an away team forfeits and notice of the forfeit is too late for the home team to avoid paying pitch fees then the home team can invoice the away team for the cost of the pitch.
Rationale	Home teams should not have to pay a pitch fee if the away team forfeits and no game is played.
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do members agree with the proposed change? The Rules group will consider the specifics of how this could be implemented and enforced

Section 10.f: Umpiring

Proposed Change	To add an exception to the requirement that 2 umpires are provided for Majors 1 & 2 games, so that if the plate umpire is BASU qualified and in uniform they can umpire alone.
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	Separate to this proposed change, the committee intends to form an Umpiring Working Group during the winter to consider a range of issues regarding umpiring and look at how the league can better support and develop umpires. If the group comes back with any recommendations for significant changes to regulations, the committee will consult further with league members before making a decision.
Rationale	A question was raised during the season regarding whether the requirement for 2 umpires could be relaxed. The committee sought feedback and ideas from league members in the end of season survey to gauge views regarding umpiring requirements. There was no consensus in favour of a significant change to the current rules, however there was support for allowing BASU qualified umpires to umpire solo. The committee discussed a range of options and agreed to propose this change.
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from members on the current rules and proposed change • Call for volunteers to be part of the umpiring working group

Section 12: Promotion / relegation playoffs

Proposed Change	Remove the requirement for promotion or relegation play-off games and add new tiebreakers to determine placings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Points 2. Head to head results between the tied teams 3. (New) Team with fewer forfeits against 4. (New) Head to head runs differential between the tied teams 5. Draw lots
Rationale	Play-off matches have proved difficult to organise in recent years due to the time of year and challenges with pitch and player availability. The committee has debated various options for approaching this differently and has agreed unanimously to propose changing the tiebreaker rules to remove the need for play-offs. There was some debate about the specific tiebreakers to include and various options were considered.
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do members agree with the proposal to remove the need for play-off games? • What are members' views on the suggested revisions to tie-breakers?

Inclusive rules trial

Proposed Change	In principle, adopt the rules trialled in 2019 into the Regs, subject to a technical review of the specific rules and application. The committee is proposing to establish a working group to review the rules and seek input from BASU and BSF as part of this process.
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	If any significant changes are proposed following the working group, the committee will consult further with league members before finalising these.
Rationale	The committee has received generally positive feedback regarding the rules that were trialled in 2019. No major concerns have been raised and feedback in the end of season survey has focused on the communication and understanding of the rules, rather than the principles they are based on.
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do members have any feedback or comments regarding specific issues to review? • Note that the inclusive rules have prompted some wider discussion on the walk rules and use of different ball sizes based on gender – <i>to be discussed later on the agenda.</i>

Penalties for teams/individuals

Proposed Change	<p>The Rules Working Group will review the existing SOs & Regulations to look at penalties that should be applied for teams or individuals in breach of rules and requirements. The group will look to address ambiguities or provide further guidance where this is needed. For example, by creating an appendix to the regulations with a simple summary table setting out what penalties apply to different situations, so these are as clear as possible.</p> <p>The working group will make recommendations back to the committee regarding any proposed changes. If substantive changes are proposed, the committee will engage with league members prior to making a decision.</p>
Rationale	Some issues have arisen this season where there is ambiguity within the current rules and guidance regarding how to deal with a situation, and how issues should be responded to by the committee.
Issues / questions for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do members have any specific issues they want reviewed or clarified?